

**Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board**  
Meeting to be held on 9 May 2023

Corporate Priorities:  
Caring for the Vulnerable

**Lancashire Better Care Fund Update**  
(Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' refer)

*Contact for further information:*

Sue Lott, Head of Adult Social Care, Lancashire County Council, Tel: 07887 831240, [sue.lott@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sue.lott@lancashire.gov.uk), Paul Robinson, Head of Service Redesign, Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit, Tel: 07920 466112, [paul.robinson27@nhs.net](mailto:paul.robinson27@nhs.net)

**Brief Summary**

The Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) reset work continues to move forward. This paper details the progress so far and key priorities.

The Better Care Fund End of Year (2022/23) Template is being completed, with deadlines of 2 May 2023 for the submission of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund element and 23 May 2023 for the full Better Care Fund (BCF) element. The template summarises the spend and activity for Lancashire as well as the impact the funding has had.

The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund has been confirmed for 2023-25, with planning in progress. The monies will be fully pooled into the Better Care Fund (BCF).

The Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan this time around is a two-year plan, with the ability to review and amend at the end of 2023/24. Planning is in progress, with the multi-agency steering group leading the work together on populating the plan and bringing the narrative together. The engagement with the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 9 May 2023 is part of the information gathering and ambition setting for the Lancashire Plan.

**Recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- i) Consider and comment as appropriate on the progress in the “reset” of the Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) and next steps.
- ii) To receive further updates on Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) reset activity and the Discharge Support Fund use and impact at future Board meetings.
- iii) Consider and comment as appropriate on the approach to using the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund as set out in the plan.
- iv) Contribute ideas and expectations for the 2023-25 Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) Lancashire Plan.

## Lancashire Better Care Fund Reset

Work continues to take place on the 'reset' of the Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF). Work has slowed slightly due to the pressing need to attend to the End of Year summaries of both the Adult Social Care Discharge Support Fund and the Better Care Fund (BCF), and the planning and development of the 2023-25 Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan.




Since the last update, work continues to progress regarding citizen engagement, with a workshop taking place in June with health and care providers delivering services funded by the Better Care Fund (BCF). This is an important precursor to a citizen engagement workshop and will support us to understand how providers may already be engaging with the people they serve, and how they respond and innovate or improve following feedback.

Governance is being defined for the Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF). Draft Terms of Reference are being considered by the joint steering group and will ultimately be ratified by the interim Board. The interim Board will be co-chaired by the Lancashire County Council (LCC) Director of Integrated Commissioning and an Integrated Care Board (ICB) nominated representative (awaiting clarification). The interim Board will provide joint governance and oversight of the Better Care Fund and the reset programme, whilst the definitive governance is worked up and agreed through the reset programme. The interim Board will also ratify the spend line review principles that have been drafted for the reset to work to.

At the last Board, the intention to identify any underspend and create a 'transformation fund' within the Better Care Fund (BCF) was outlined. At this stage, it appears unlikely that there will be any from 2022/23, however the commitment to this intention is firm from both the Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), and it is hoped that this will become part of the Better Care Fund (BCF) from 2024 onwards.

### Metrics And Performance

In the absence yet of a formalised set of reporting and analysis, the table below provides an updated Lancashire position on the dataset that the Board received last time.

Metric	February Data - Lancashire	February Data – Average All HWB Areas	Lancashire Change from December Position
Discharge to Usual Place of Residence (from hospital)	87.28%	92.52%	
Length of Stay (Hospital) 14 days	15.66%	11.78%	
Length of Stay (Hospital) 21 days	9%	6.39%	



For Q4 (Jan/Feb data only) 2023/24 there were 1,088 avoidable admissions for Lancashire residents, with a rolling total at February 2023 of 11,667 for the year. This remains a significant opportunity for improved opportunities to support more people to remain in their usual place of residence.

### Adult Social Care Discharge Fund

The 2022/23 Discharge Support Fund ended on the 31 March 2023 and an 'End of Year Summary' is currently being completed and has to be submitted by the 2 May 2023. This element does not require Health and Wellbeing Board sign-off although will be shared with the Chair of the Board prior to submission and will subsequently be shared with Board members prior to the meeting as Appendix 'B'.

The Discharge grant was spent in full by both the Local Authority and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), as detailed in the End of Year Summary. For ease of reading, the total numbers of people supported to leave hospital through services funded by the Grant are set out below (15 December 2022 – 31 March 2023):

Scheme	Activity - 15.12.2022 to 31.12.2023
Discharges Directly Home (with formal support)	2,822
Discharges Directly Home (supported by AgeUK)	1641
Discharges Home with a 'one off personal budget'	23
Discharges Home with Reablement (at point of discharge)	168
Discharges to Bed Based Intermediate Care/D2A Care Home Placement	991

### Better Care Fund

An End of Year Summary is also required for the Better Care Fund for 2022/23, and this details the income and spend summary, the year-end performance position against the Better Care Fund (BCF) metrics, and a summary of successes and challenges in delivering the Better Care Fund (BCF) plan through the year.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) End of Year summary is currently being completed, with a submission deadline of 23 May 2023. The End of Year Summary requires sign-off by the Health and Wellbeing Board and all efforts are being made across the partnership to have as much of the summary as possible completed in readiness for the Board meeting on the 9 May 2023. This will be identified as Appendix 'C'.

Planning guidance has now also been released on the requirements for the 2023-25 Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan. The plan consists of an income and planned-spend template, as well as a narrative plan. The requirement for a 2-year plan is new, and there is an expectation that the plan will be reviewed at the end of year one with any amendments both to the narrative and the spend proposals submitted to the



Department of Health and Social Care and the Department of Levelling Up and Communities.

The reset work and aims and ambitions will set much of the tone of the 2-year Plan. There is a suggested template, which covers Governance, key priorities for 2023-25 and how the Lancashire system intends to deliver these, how unpaid carers will be supported, and how the two Better Care Fund (BCF) national policy objectives and four national conditions will be met, and these are:

- i) A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- ii) Implementing Better Care Fund (BCF) policy objective 1: enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
- iii) Implementing Better Care Fund (BCF) policy objective 2: providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time.
- iv) Maintaining the NHS's contribution to adult social care (in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution to the Better Care Fund (BCF)), and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

The plan also requires the system to set out how the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) will be spent, and the wider strategic approach to how Housing support can increase independence at home. A section on what will be in place to reduce health inequalities across the Lancashire population is also contained within the Plan template.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the narrative plan template set out at Appendix 'A' in readiness for discussion at the meeting on the 9 May 2023, to ensure the Plan takes account of the views and ambitions of the Board.

### List of background papers

Link to Adult Social Care Discharge Fund planning requirements and guidance  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-discharge-fund>

Link to the Better Care Fund planning requirements and guidance  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PRN00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023-25.pdf>

Link to the Better Care Fund Policy, Objectives and Priorities  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025/2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework>

### Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Better Care Fund (BCF) Narrative plan template

